

San Ygnacio Ranch House
San Ygnacio, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-3112✓

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer
615 Maverick Building, San Antonio, Texas.

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SAN YGNACIO RANCH HOUSE
San Ygnacio, Zapata County, Texas.

1.

Owner: Senora Olaya Guiterres Uribe

Date of Erection: 1851-54-71

Architect: Senor Jesus Trevino

Builder: Senor Jesus Trevino

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Sandstone, adobe plaster, mesquite, cypress, oak "Chipichil" & native concrete.

Other Existing Records: None

Additional Data:

The original settlement of San Ygnacio, now a useless ruin, was built in 1801 by Jose Vasquez Borrigo. Borrigo left San Ygnacio in 1810, prior to Mexico's War with Spain, and returned to Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. He returned to San Ygnacio in 1829 and sold the then existing house and property to Jesus Trevino. The place was named for San Ygnacio, who was their patron saint; it was situated about five miles east of the present San Ygnacio.

Jesus Trevino left the Old San Ygnacio in 1851, having completed the new houses at the present San Ygnacio. The first three rooms on the west side were completed in 1851. Two more rooms on the north were completed in 1854, and the last room on the northeast side was completed in 1871. The descendants of Jesus Trevino, Senora Uribe, her children and grandchildren, are still in possession of the ranch house. The Post Office of San Ygnacio is located in the house.

This ranch house is an excellent example of the early Mexican architecture of the courtyard type. The house has six rooms built in "L" shaped around a courtyard. It covers approximately one-half of a city block. The walls in the courtyard have loop holes which were used for firing at raiding bands of Indians. The portion directly to the rear of the Main Entrance to the courtyard was not originally roofed. The Main Entrance was used to bring carts and stock inside the courtyard to protect them from the Indian raiders. The roof is part flat and part pitched. The house contains two very good typical Mexican fireplaces.

The old builders of this period had a custom of inscribing a rafters or roof timbers. This house bears three different inscriptions, inasmuch as it was built in three units. The first part bears these inscriptions: In bed room #1: "October 2nd de 1851" (October 2, 1851) Bed room #2: "Pax V. Robertus Otoreno 15 de 1851" (Work with peace and liberty 15, 1851.) The 1st construction bears this inscription "La Paz de Jesus Cristo Sea con Nos Otros December 3 de 1871, San Ygnacio Ruega por nos otros" (The peace of Jesus Christ be on us all, December 3, 1871 San Ygnacio pray for us all.

The doorways are of hand carved sandstone. There is also a hand carved lintel over a small window in the courtyard; the corner piece on the northwest corner is of hand carved sandstone. The house is as it was originally built, with the exception of top portions of the roof, which have been replaced with galvanized iron. The original roof was all "Chipichil". All ceiling joists are exposed and are of cypress. The roof sheathing is of one inch random width cypress and mesquite; door, and window jambs are made of cypress and oak.

As closely as can be determined by observation "Chipichil" was made of callichil, having a high lime content, river gravel, clay and a substance probably asphalt. The art of its composition has been lost.

This information was secured from Mrs. Senora Clara Gutierrez Uribe, San Ygnacio, Texas, and Proceso Martinez Gonzales, San Ygnacio.

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APPROVED: Samuel C. Baker
Bartlett Locke, District Officer

Date: December 10, 1936.

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